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Bangalore Mirror

TEMP Max 27 | Min 21 | Humidity 71% Mostly Cloudy Sensex 78,674 | Nifty 23,868 | Gold 70,938 | Silver 86,467 | Dollar 83.56 | Euro 89.20 | GBP 105.60

BBMP Horticulture Dept not bothered about upkeep of Mahatma Gandhi Park — lights are missing or broken and statues are getting chipped away

2 DAYS OF RESPECT, REST WEARS OUT IN NEGLECT

Authorities must visit park on MG Road to understand its condition

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Mahatma Gandhi Park on MG Road is billed as one of the important parks in the city. It is being maintained by Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike's (BBMP) Horticulture Department. It is a routine for the BBMP Chief Commissioner and a few Gandhians to visit the Mahatma Gandhi Park on October 2 and January 30 on the occasion of Gandhi Jayanthi and the leader's death anniversary. The authorities concerned, however, choose to forget the existence of the Mahatma Gandhi Park the rest of the year.

Lights at the park are missing, its electric junction boxes are rusted, and the water fountains lie neglected, making it seem like this park is not on

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 »

KAUSHIK JN

"The BBMP and horticulture department have to be responsible and accountable in the upkeep with periodic maintenance and inspection of these national assets
— Vinod Jacob, Namma Bengaluru Foundation

RATS OUT

Badly designed dust bins installed at Cubbon Park are having unwanted effect — litter around it is attracting rodents

PAGE 3

WASTE POWER

Bidadi's waste-to-electricity plant scheduled to be inaugurated by end of July; Yelahanka's plant also to be thrown open

PAGE 6

Advt.

Dr Savitha Rani.M honoured with Nation Icon Award 2024 for JALAYOGA

New Delhi I June 25, 2024: On the occasion of International Yoga Day, Dr Savitha Rani.M, a prominent figure in Aquatic **JALAYOGA**, was bestowed with the prestigious National Icon Award in the category of **JALAYOGA**. The accolade was presented by Union Minister for Social Justice, **Shri Ramdas Athawale** in a ceremony held at New Delhi. Her unique talent of doing JALAYOGA in Aquatic environment has inspired many across the nation. Dr Savitha Rani.M, who serves as an employee at Ramaiah Institute of Technology, Bangalore

2 THINGS TO DO

01 DIY magic tricks

Learn the art of 'Improv Magic,' with Bengaluru's favourite magician, Nikhil Raj, in 'Junior Magic Course,' a specially curated fun magic workshop for children aged 6–12 years. Organised by the Institute of Magic and Allied Arts, it aims to improve the creativity, storytelling, dexterity, stage presence, communication, and confidence of children through magic, with items easily available at home. **Where: Celebrations Unlimited Studio, Doddakallasandra; When: June 29, 4 pm to 6 pm**

02 Kids art party

Here is an exciting weekend art class tailored specifically for kids! These engaging and interactive sessions are designed to ignite your child's imagination and nurture their artistic talents in a fun and supportive environment. Led by experienced and passionate art instructors, in this class, children will explore various art techniques and mediums, including painting, drawing, collage, and more. **Where: Paint Cafe Studio, Whitefield; When: June 27 to July 1**

Awareness rally by Josephites

An awareness rally about the ill effects of drug abuse and human trafficking was organised by St Joseph's PU College on the occasion of the International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking on Wednesday. Students pledged to safeguard themselves and their peers against addiction in a prayer session, followed by an address by Campus Animator Rev Fr Ashwin Cordeiro SJ and Director Rev Fr Joy Rodrigues SJ. The rally was flagged off by CR Rajendra, Principal and Nirmala Raghunandan, Vice Principal. Holding placards with creative messages against these two evil practices that plague our society, student representatives and NCC cadets went from the Residency Road gate towards Cash Pharmacy, SBI Junction and ended at the 'G' block of the campus. The students of the Dramatics Club enacted a street play on the theme during the lunch break. The entire event was coordinated by the Social Concern Team.

Bannerghatta's leopard safari: Now open to public

20 leopards will be released in two batches; 6.6-metre-high chain-link net fencing is in place; officials also in process of procuring drones that will ensure visitor safety

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'The leopard safari will be part of Bannerghatta Biological Park's overall safari experience'

The much-awaited leopard safari at Bannerghatta Biological Park (BBP) is now open to the public. The Karnataka Forest Minister Eshwar B Khandre on Wednesday inaugurated the safari.

Following the guidelines of the Central Zoo Authority (CZA), visitors can view big cats spread over an area of 20 hectares with a 6.5-metre-high chain link net to ensure their safety. "The safari has 20 leopards who will be released in two groups of eight and 12, owing to the fact that they were trained as two different groups. As per guidelines given by the CZA, we have ensured that only hand-reared and zoo-born leopards are part of the safari. Safety will not be a concern as the fencing is 6.5 metres high," said AV Surya Sen, deputy conservator of forests and executive director of BBP. The safari, pending for nearly four years, was delayed owing to the sudden deaths of seven leopards at the park in September 2023. BBP had then lost three leopards during a contagious viral infection that hit the park.

According to the officials at BBP, more leopards will be added to the enclosure soon to enhance visitors' experiences. Since leopards are elusive animals, visitors might not be able to spot them when they are released in small numbers. "We might add more leopards to enhance the experience of visitors. However, we have to tread cautiously. These animals also require holding houses. Currently, BBP has only 12 holding houses for 20 safari leopards. Given the infrastructure, we cannot keep increasing the number of big cats. We need to observe dynamics among these individuals, as leopards are territorial animals. We are observing the animals and will look at bringing in more based on infrastructure availability," said Sen.

> **"We might add more leopards. Currently, BBP has only 12 holding houses for 20 safari leopards** – AV Surya Sen, deputy conservator of forests and BBP executive director

Officials further informed that the leopard safari will be part of BBP's overall safari experience. To ensure the safety of visitors, BBP is in the process of procuring drones for surveillance. "Visitors walking in for safari will be able to see one more animal. It will be part of the bigger safari experience at BBP. To ensure the safety of visitors further, we are also in the process of procuring two drones. The drones will be used not only for general surveillance but will also be used to keep tabs on the leopards. This is expected to begin in a week," added Sen.

Mahatma Gandhi Park in disarray

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

BBMP Horticulture Department's priority list. Mahatma Gandhi's statues in different forms are installed at the park with an objective to create awareness among the visitors on his simple and humble lifestyle. One of the statues depicts Mahatma Gandhi's khadi movement. With the authorities not bothered about the maintenance of the statues, more than five spokes of the charkha made of concrete are damaged. If not replaced or repaired, the charkha is on its way to complete ruin. Rusted steel rods of the concrete charkha have been exposed, in way exposing the lack of care towards the man and his thoughts.

When this correspondent visited the park, some of the people relaxing at the park expressed their dismay at the poor maintenance of the Mahatma Gandhi Park. They demanded that the authorities visit the park once a week or month to know its condition.

Emphasising on the need to maintain the park, R Rajagopalan of Bengaluru Residents Welfare Association, said the shoddy maintenance of landmark parks and public spaces in such prime locations, visited often by tourists and foreign dignitaries, reflects the lack of accountability in the BBMP Horticulture Department. "It is like the Gandhi statue inside the Vidhana Soudha meditating, we wish to wake up to the corruption, poor governance and rampant apathy among civic bodies. The occasional tribute for Father of the Nation should have at least drawn attention to this over the past six-seven years," said Rajagopalan.

Expressing shock over the pathetic condition of the Gandhi statue, Vinod Jacob of Namma Bengaluru Foundation said that it is sad to note the state of the memorial park of the father of our nation is in this condition. "We don't seem to maintain the most important memorial on the same road named after him in the heart of the city. The park is not maintained, the statues are in bad shape and the lights are dysfunctional. The BBMP and horticulture department have to be responsible and accountable in the upkeep with periodic maintenance and inspection of these national assets," said Vinod Jacob.

When we informed the BBMP Horticulture Department Superintendent Vijaykumar about the state of the park, he said that he would visit the park within two days. "I will inform the BBMP Electrical Department to replace the defunct bulbs and missing lamps," said Vijaykumar.

Tinny bins let rats have field day at Cubbon Park

Walkers, citizen groups attribute surge of rodent sightings to inadequate, poor conditions of dustbins installed during Smart City project, among other issues

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File photo showing the view of the Cubbon Park

Cubbon Park, which is a popular spot for walkers and nature enthusiasts, has recently become a hub of complaints due to a surge in rodent sightings. Regular visitors to the park attributed this problem to the inadequacy and poor condition of the dustbins installed by the Bengaluru Smart City Limited (BSCL) when the Smart City project was carried out.

Walkers have expressed their dissatisfaction, pointing out that the many bins chosen by BSCL are damaged, and some have even been stolen. Members of the We Love Cubbon Park group have voiced their frustration, claiming that the BSCL did not heed their advice and selected unsuitable designs for the bins. "The Smart City made a mess of the dustbins by selecting an incorrect design for the bins; now most of them are broken, damaged, or stolen," said Sunita Kumar from the group. "There is unprecedented littering, leading to more rodents. The old bins were stronger, and it was not possible to steal from them. These bins could have been modified, and more of the same could be added. However, adding the new bins has been of no use," she said.

> **"Smart City project made a mess of dustbins in park by selecting an incorrect design for bins; now most of them are broken, damaged, or stolen**
>
> –Sunita Kumar, member of We Love Cubbon Park group

Kumar further highlighted similar issues on Lavelle Road, where BSCL-installed bins have been stolen and not replaced for over two years. "Dustbins have been missing for more than two years and have not been replaced. The road is not handed to the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike. The new sewage line is not connected, and every time the jetting truck comes and muck is left on the road, there are even potholes. No action has been taken yet to solve these issues," she pointed out.

Walkers also observed that vendors near Cubbon Park contribute to the problem by disposing of their waste in the park's already overflowing bins, which attracts more rodents. Expressing their disappointment with the BSCL's waste management strategy, a member of the Cubbon Park Conservation Committee said, "The Smart City did not carry out any homework to improve the waste management system. They have just put in a lot of concrete. Instead, they should have focused on the hydrology aspect of Cubbon Park. We had given many suggestions on the kind of dustbins that were needed at the park; however, the suggestions were not taken. Many people even bring food to feed the birds, and these leftovers are leading to an increase in rodents at the park. All those entering with a picnic basket should be ticketed, just to raise awareness of trash clearance." When BM tried to contact the horticulture department official, he was unavailable to comment on the matter.

Pelican crossing ineffective: Residents demand FOB at ITPL Main Road

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Citizens are demanding a permanent foot overbridge (FOB) at the ITPL Main Road as they are struggling to cross the road after the commencement of the Namma Metro's Purple Line.

Since the operationalization of the Purple Line of Namma Metro in March 2013, residents of the area have been struggling to cross the road near Garudacharpalya Metro Station. They complain that the pelican crossing installed near the stretch has proven to be ineffective.

Despite repeated pleas to the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) and traffic officials, they say there has been no respite. "The senior citizens and children are facing issues crossing the road due to heavy traffic flow. School students are crossing from Garudacharpalya to Cauvery Nagar. While crossing the ITPL Main Road near Garudacharpalya Main Road, people are running into small accidents. I was also hit by a two-wheeler while crossing the road. Vehicles are travelling at high speeds, and we have been asking for speed breakers," said T Chunder, a resident.

Traffic at ITPL Main Road (file photo)

Residents demand that the civic body provide some permanent measures to address the issue of pedestrian safety. Pelican crossings allow pedestrians to regulate traffic signals and provide safe passage for pedestrians for a limited period of time. But according to the residents, pelican crossings are ineffective without CCTV cameras and penalties. "After much persistence by the residents and complaints to traffic officials, pelican crossings were installed at three locations. But they hardly work, and even when they do, there is no deterrence. Traffic does not stop for pedestrians, even when the crossing works. To address the issues, traffic police deputed a person to manage the traffic, but this was only effective for a few days. Thus, we want a permanent FOB to be provided for the safe passage of pedestrians," he added.

IN BRIEF

Stolen goods returned

In a shocking turn of events, thieves returned stolen items to a resident in JP Nagar, but only those marked as "valuable" in the FIR.

On Tuesday, BM reported a theft incident that occurred on Monday (June 24) at an apartment complex in JP Nagar 5th Phase where laptops, gadgets, crucial personal documents, and a Hero Maestro scooter were stolen. The victims filed an FIR with the Puttenahalli police on the same day. "The police checked the CCTV footage before filing the FIR and could see that someone entered the apartment at 2 am," said the victim.

The police then asked the victim to check for the updated last location of the MacBook, traced the thief, and collected the evidence. "Upon inspecting the location, we found CCTV footage of a man driving the scooter carrying my bag within a two-kilometre radius," said the victim. The next morning, the scooter was in the parking lot. "When I opened the scooter, my Aadhaar card, passport, and laptop were also there." However, the victim noted that the bag had other items, such as business documents, medicines, and files, which were not returned. "We suspect it is someone in the building," the victim added.

Armed robbery

Two armed men stormed a jewellery shop on Lakshmipura Main Road in the Madanayakanahalli area on Wednesday night. They threatened the owner, Rahul, and his staff at gunpoint, forcing them into a back room before seizing 750 grammes of valuables. The robbers, with one wearing a helmet and the other using a napkin to conceal his face, executed the heist in just 30 seconds. They then fled on a motorcycle driven by a third accomplice who was waiting outside. Rahul raised an alarm, but despite this, the trio managed to escape. The entire incident was captured on the shop's CCTV cameras. Police are now analysing footage from the surrounding area to identify the culprits. Superintendent Malllikarjun Baladandi of Bengaluru Rural District inspected the scene, and two police teams have been assembled to pursue the suspects.

301 citations issued for faulty plates

In a recent crackdown under the Indian Motor Vehicle Act of 1988, authorities in the Traffic South Division targeted motorists violating traffic rules by using faulty registration plates and defective silencers, for which 301 citations for defective number plates and 39 for masked number plates were found. Additionally, 39 motorists were penalised for causing noise pollution with defective silencers. Additionally, during a special drive on Tuesday by the Highgrounds Traffic Police Station in the Traffic West Division, officers apprehended a minor engaged in reckless wheeling on a two-wheeler. An FIR was filed against the minor on Wednesday, citing IPC Section 279.

Designed for diversity, but divided by platform

Tension among housing complex residents over platform around holy basil plant

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Construction site has become bone of contention between two associations at Yelahanka housing society

Disagreement has flared amongst residents of a housing complex in Yelahanka. Two groups from different residents' welfare associations of the Provident Welworth City are in conflict over the construction of a platform around Tulasi Tapovana Katte within their apartment complex. One association supports constructing a platform that can be used for relaxation and meditation. At the same time, the other opposes it, arguing that it would become dirty if smokers or those who chew tobacco or betel leaf use the area to hang out.

K Mathai, honorary president of the Provident Welworth City Residents Welfare Association, told Bangalore Mirror that no construction should take place for religious purposes in public spaces.

"Construction of religious structures in public spaces, especially on roads and footpaths, is against the Supreme Court order. I demand the authorities concerned to remove the structure constructed for religious purposes immediately to ensure communal harmony among the residents at Provident Welworth City," he said.

It is learnt that a pedestal was constructed to set up a statue of a Hindu deity at Tulasi Tapovana Katte. "Another resident from has written a letter seeking permission for constructing a mosque at one of the circles inside the apartment complex. There are more than 3,000 flats, and thousands of people from different parts of the country reside here. If the construction of structures for a particular community is allowed, other communities demand similar facilities for them. I am afraid of DJ Halli's sort of situation arising here soon. We are approaching the authorities concerned to remove the platform and the pedestal," Mathai said.

It is reported that a team named Tulasi Tapovana Team submitted a letter to Yelahanka MLA SR Vishwanath seeking permission to construct a platform around Tulasi Tapovana Katte. The MLA forwarded the letter to the Arakere Panchayat Development Officer. The letter, bearing signatures and seals from the MLA, PDO, and the president of Arakere Panchayat, was included as a copy.

> **"Construction of religious structures in public spaces, especially on roads and footpaths, is against the Supreme Court order** – K Mathai, RWA

Vidya Mishra, president of the Provident Welworth City Residents Welfare Association, stated that the space where the platform and pedestal were constructed does not belong to the apartment complex.

"We obtained permission from the authorities concerned to construct the platform and pedestal,"

Catch every drop of rain is the new mantra

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After last year's severe drought, the latest mantra is to catch every drop of rain. Hence, the BWSSB has set up 1,008 rainwater harvesting pits that have been constructed in various government buildings and premises, with plans for additional pits in the second phase. The cost of each pit ranges from Rs 20,000 to Rs 50,000. According to BWSSB regulations from 2009, updated in 2021 under section 72A, all buildings with a roof area of 2,400 square feet or more, and all new buildings with a roof area of 1,200 square feet or more, must install rainwater harvesting systems. Currently, 10.39 lakh households in the city receive water from the Cauvery River, but only 2,009 households have complied with the rainwater harvesting installation requirement.

An official said, "The BWSSB has initiated efforts to promote rainwater harvesting in the city. Despite the mandatory regulations, only around 2 lakh buildings have installed rainwater harvesting systems, with many citizens showing reluctance by saying, "We will build, but we won't harvest rainwater." To encourage compliance, the

Water Board has decided to construct rainwater harvesting pits in various government buildings, schools, colleges, offices, hospitals, anganwadis, and religious centres under its jurisdiction." In the first phase, BWSSB constructed 1,008 rainwater harvesting pits and plans to add 1,000 more in the second phase, aiming for a total of 2,000 pits. Each pit's construction costs range from Rs 20,000 to Rs 50,000. BWSSB has instructed officials to prioritise constructing rainwater harvesting pits in school and college buildings.

"Rainwater harvesting is crucial for the city's water future. This initiative reflects our social responsibility to ensure a sustainable water future for the city. The estimated cost for this project is around Rs 5 crore, funded by penalties collected from consumers who fail to install rainwater harvesting systems. While we are imposing fines on those who do not comply, our ultimate goal is to raise awareness and encourage citizens to voluntarily adopt rainwater harvesting. We want citizens to understand its importance and take the initiative to install these systems in their buildings," said BWSSB chairman Ram Prasath Manohar V.

Meanwhile, the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) has launched a Rs 2.50 crore initiative to harness rainwater in 27 parks. The project involves constructing 250 rainwater harvesting pits, each with a capacity of 4,000 litres, for Rs 1 lakh per pit. This effort aims to recharge groundwater levels and address water scarcity issues that many parks faced during the summer when borewells dried up. The harvested rainwater will be used to replenish borewells and enhance groundwater levels. This project is expected to alleviate the city's water problems and provide a sustainable solution for park maintenance. Previously, the BBMP constructed 500 rainwater harvesting pits in various parks, and this new scheme will add 250 more pits.

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Traffic woes

Banaswadi

Traffic congestion at Ayyappa Temple Signal, from Banaswadi to Maruti Seva Nagar Road, persists, revealing serious flaws in our traffic management system.

Hazardous wires

MG Road

Loose wires are hanging dangerously close to the shops on MG Road. With the onset of wind and rain, these wires could cause serious accidents.

Flooded circle

Hebbal

For several days, the main road circle near Hebbal's Kempapura Chiranjeevi Layout has been flooded due to a major water leak, causing widespread waterlogging in the area.

Fan's murder: Police notice to SI over Pavithra's make-up in custody

The police department has issued a notice to a woman Sub-Inspector for allowing jailed Kannada superstar Darshan's partner Pavithra Gowda to apply make-up in police custody, sources confirmed on Wednesday. On June 15, Pavithra Gowda was taken to her residence for recording details of the scene of the crime in Bengaluru.

During that visit, Pavithra Gowda was seen applying lipstick and make-up and smiling while coming back from her residence with the police personnel.

A notice has been issued to the SI from the office of the DCP (West) and clarification has been sought.

Meanwhile, Pavithra Gowda's mother and daughter met her at the Central Prison and sources said that she broke down during the visit.

On the other hand, authorities have passed an order to seize two US-made pistols possessed by Darshan, sources revealed. His associate Pradosh, who is also in prison, has one pistol. Both have licences and were given exemption officially to keep the arms with them during the Lok Sabha elections. —IANS

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Bengaluru all set to go full-power next month

Bidadi waste-to-electricity plant, that aims to reduce disposal issues and minimise environmental impact, ready for July inauguration; Yelahanka plant also set to open

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The Bidadi waste-to-electricity plant is scheduled to be inaugurated in the last week of July. This project, a collaboration between Karnataka Power Corporation Limited (KPCL) and Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP), aims to generate 11.5 MW of electricity from 600 tonnes of dry waste. Completed at Rs 260 crore, the plant has already begun trial electricity generation. Energy Minister KJ George has directed officials to ensure all necessary preparations are completed for the inauguration. The plant, designed to reduce waste disposal issues, employs the latest technology to minimise environmental pollution.

The plant, designed to handle 600 tonnes of solid waste and produce 11.5 MW of refuse-derived fuels (RDF), is a joint effort between Karnataka Power Corporation Limited (KPCL) and the BBMP, using an engineering, procurement, and construction (EPC) model with an estimated cost of Rs 260 crore. BS Yediyurappa, former Chief Minister, laid the foundation stone for this project in December 2020. The primary goal of the plant is to assist the BBMP in scientifically disposing of 25% of its waste. Despite five years of discussions, it's the first operational plant of its kind, aiming to reduce landfill pressure and improve the environment. Bidadi plant will generate 80.59 MU of power, contributing to the State Grid, delayed by Covid and other issues from its planned 2020 opening.

Currently, BWSML manages waste disposal in the city

A BBMP official said, "This plant's primary objective is to assist the BBMP in scientifically managing 25% of its waste. The construction of the Waste-to-Energy plant has been entrusted to consortium members ISGEC Heavy Engineering Ltd., Noida, and Hitachi Zosen India Pvt Ltd. This consortium has successfully established a similar plant in Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh, which has been operational for the past four years."

Speaking at the inaugural ceremony, the Chief Minister highlighted the challenges Bengaluru faces due to its current waste disposal practices, resulting in high costs and environmental concerns.

Meanwhile, environmentalists have welcomed the government's initiative and urged the authorities to install a continuous air monitoring system. Experts suggest that BBMP should facilitate the transportation of non-recyclable items to the plant, avoiding recyclable dry waste. They also emphasise the need for an air quality monitoring system at the site and strict adherence to Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) standards.

Currently, Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Limited manages waste disposal in the city, operating seven processing units. Despite significant investment, a large portion of the daily 5,000-tonne waste output still ends up in landfills, with 3,000 tonnes daily. Due to the Mitaganahalli landfill nearing capacity, a new one is under development in Hullahalli.

The completion of the new waste-to-energy plant could save BBMP up to Rs 14 crore. Additionally, BBMP previously engaged private players to generate electricity at its waste plants in Kannahalli, Doddabidarakallu, Mavallipura, Mandur, Bellahalli, and Chikkanagamangala, but this initiative has not yet materialised.

The other plant

The Yelahanka Combined Cycle Power Plant (CCPP) is set for official inauguration in mid-July. With a capacity of 370 MW, the plant, built by Karnataka Power Corporation Limited (KPCL), uses both gas and steam turbines for electricity generation. Completed for Rs 260 crore, the project faces opposition from residents citing pollution concerns.

Court rejects Prajwal's bail plea

The Special People Representative court in Karnataka's Bengaluru rejected the bail plea of suspended Janata Dal-Secular leader Prajwal Revanna on Wednesday in connection with the ongoing investigation into an alleged rape case.

The case was based on a complaint lodged at Holenarasipura police station in Karnataka against him and his father, HD Revanna.

The Special Public Prosecutor (SPP) during the bail hearing argued that IPC Section 376 (rape charges) had been added to the case, and considering the gravity of the crime, bail should not be granted.

The case, registered on April 28, involves allegations against Revanna and his father, HD Revanna, of sexual assault on their domestic help. **–ANI**

Child trafficking racket busted

The police busted a child trafficking racket, arresting seven persons and rescuing five children who were allegedly sold by the accused to childless couples, officials said on Wednesday.

The matter came to light after a complaint was filed by a couple on June 9 alleging that their 11-month-old infant was allegedly kidnapped by some miscreants at night while they were asleep at their home in Gubbi taluk in Tumakuru, they said.A special team was constituted to rescue the kidnapped child and, acting on a tip off, accused Ramakrishna (53) and his accomplice Hanamantha Raju (45) who allegedly kidnapped the infant were arrested. **–IANS**

BM Education

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Hat-trick of exam controversies

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The recent chain of failures during the exam season has sparked doubts among students about the reliability of the education system, leading to a sense of uncertainty about their future. The most recent setback occurred when the National Testing Agency (NTA) postponed the joint CSIR-UGC NET exams scheduled for June 25 and 26, citing "unavoidable circumstances and logistic issues." These exams cover subjects such as life science, physical science, earth science, chemical science, and maths. This delay comes on the heels of the abrupt cancellation of UGC-NET just a day after it was conducted, alongside allegations of irregularities in NEET.

Sanjana Kumar, set to take the NET exams, wondered how the consecutive disputes are disrupting plans, especially for those aspiring for a PhD and facing the indefinite postponement of CSIR-UGC NET. The halt of other state-level eligibility tests and fellowships by the education ministry adds to the concern over NTA's failure to ensure a transparent exam system. Reflecting on these challenges, Nandan Kumar, a candidate for the chemical science paper, pointed out the wasted time and demotivation among students due to NTA's failures, risking missed opportunities for PhD programs at prestigious institutions like IITs. Sunita Mahdavan, another candidate, expressed frustration over the prolonged postponement, emphasising its discouraging impact on research aspirations and limited options for further studies. Kashinath D, another student criticised the government's role, stating the unacceptability of a lack of transparency in exams that impact millions of students. Biddappa K raised broader concerns about the potential limitation of research opportunities due to consecutive exam fiascos and reduced research funds, which discourage many from pursuing research. Anjum P shared concerns about the intensified competition resulting from potential mergers with other exam cycles, affecting admissions to top institutions like IITs. Following a series of controversies, students stressed the urgency of timely exams, given the CSIR-UGC NET's essential role in admissions, and highlighted the challenges that delays or mergers with other cycles would pose in securing seats at top institutions.

Reacting to this, M Jagadesh Kumar, Chairman, UGC said, "The announcement of a High-Level Committee of Experts with Dr K. Radhakrishnan as Chairman to probe the issues is a welcome step towards assuring entrance examinations' transparent, smooth, and fair conduct. The Committee's emphasis on recommending reforms in the examination process, enhancing data security protocols, and improving the NTA's structure and functioning will strengthen our national entrance examination system. Protecting student's interests and their future is our priority."

PGCET-24 postponed

The Karnataka Examination Authority (KEA) announced on Tuesday that the PGCET-2024, initially scheduled for July 13th and 14th to determine eligibility for admission to MBA, MCA, M.E./M. Tech, and M. Architecture courses have been postponed. H. Prasanna, Executive Director of KEA, stated that the decision was made to accommodate students whose final semester exams in some universities are set to begin on July 5th and 10th. The revised exam dates will be published on the KEA website in due course. Additionally, KEA has extended the registration period for PGCET-2024. Interested and eligible candidates who have not yet registered can apply online from June 26th to July 7th and pay the fees by July 9th. KEA emphasised that these dates will not be extended further. For updated information, candidates have been advised to check the KEA Website http://kea.kar.nic.in.

Ready for reprisal Actor and musician Jonathan Jackson, who is known for his role as Lucky Spencer in the TV series 'General Hospital', is all set to return to the show, reported People

WHERE ALL THE JUICE IS

Kareena reveals her favourite group chat

Bollywood diva Kareena Kapoor Khan on Wednesday spilled the beans about her favourite mobile chatting group with her girlfriends and said that it has all the juice.

Kareena, who has joined WhatsApp channels, on Instagram shared a video answering questions. The actress was asked about her favourite chat group. To which, she said: "It has to be Guts 2.0. It is a fun group with all the girls, which I am not going to reveal, but it has all the juice on it."

Kareena's closest friends in the industry include Amrita Arora, Malaika Arora and her sister Karisma Kapoor. The four are often seen spending quality girl time together. The actress was then asked about her weirdest food pairing, to which she said: "My food pairings are straight-up commercial favourites like chicken curry rice, Rajma chawal and kadi chawal."

Which emoticon does she relate to? Pat came the reply: "I don't know. Queen." What about Saif, to which she said: "Saif is always rolling his eyes. So let's go with rolling eyes." Talking about who is naughtier, Taimur or Jeh, Kareena said: "I think it has to be Jeh. He's always up to something."

The actress then shared that "it's a tizz and it's a saga" are her two favourite phrases that she uses the most currently while chatting on the phone. Asked how many times a day she chats with her sister Karisma, Kareena said: "I think Saif should answer this question because he is like you are always messaging Lolo. I don't know a couple of hundred times..."

Talking about her work on the big screen, Kareena's next is a crime thriller with Meghna Gulzar. It also stars Ayushmann Khurrana. The film is said to be based on the Hyderabad rape case. —IANS

Richa up for comedy

Actress Richa Chadha, who is all set to welcome her firstborn in July, has signed her next, a comedy film and the work is set to begin in October.

The script of the film which is a comedy genre, is already ready and has been written by Amitosh Nagpal. The film is set in North India.

Richa commented on her work during her maternity break: "While I can't speak for all women, because it depends on each individual what their journey is like, I am determined to get back to work as soon as possible, and not take a long break, as I have pending commitments."

The actress, who is married to star Ali Fazal, said that she takes inspiration from her own mother, who managed both roles with grace and efficiency.

"I believe I can handle both duties effectively as well because it depends on the kind of support system you have around you and how hands-on your partner is. In my case, I feel blessed to have both those things figured out," she said.

She doesn't feel it is out of the ordinary. "I have seen the badass women of Mumbai take local trains well into their 9th month, heading to work, looking perfectly groomed with their gajras intact. I am very inspired by the average Indian woman and don't want this to be treated as a medical condition, it is not. It is a natural part of life". —IANS

Too close for comfort

Janhvi Kapoor was recently spotted back in Mumbai. The actress reportedly returned from Paris just in time for her brother Arjun Kapoor's birthday. Her arrival at the Mumbai airport created a buzz online, with videos and photos of her circulating on social media platforms.

In a video posted by a paparazzo on Instagram, Janhvi was captured leaving the airport and heading towards her car.

As fans approached her for selfies, Janhvi obliged but soon found herself surrounded by a growing crowd, visibly uncomfortable with the attention.

After posing for photos, Janhvi headed towards her car. When a paparazzi wished her a happy birthday, Janhvi replied, "Mera birthday nahi hai (It's not my birthday)."

Before getting into her car, she also paused for more photos. On her travel day, Janhvi sported a black top layered under a green shirt, paired with black trousers and shoes. She accessorized with a shawl and carried a bag. In response to the video, someone commented, "She's humble and polite. But this is no way to disturb her just because she is a celebrity." One user wrote, "She's also

human, give her a break. You can see she's uncomfortable." Another penned, "This is so wrong. You

can't invade her private space."

On the work front, Janhvi will be seen in two upcoming films. Firstly, she will star in "Ulajh," a patriotic thriller scheduled to release on August 2. Directed by Sudhanshu Saria and written by Pareez Shaikh and Sudhanshu Saria, the film features a stellar cast including Gulshan Devaiah, Roshan Matthew, Adil Hussain, Rajesh Tailang, Meiyang Chang, Rajendra Gupta, and Jitendra Joshi. Produced by Junglee Pictures, Ulajh promises gripping storytelling with dialogues by Atika Chauhan. —ETimes

SANDALWOOD SHOTS

Y MAHESWARA REDDY

A middle class story

After tasting success with a web series By Mistake, RJ Pradeepa's Sakkath Studio is set to create waves in Sandalwood with its maiden film Maryade Prashne.

The pre-production work of the movie is already wrapped up and the team of the movie has been busy with the post-production work. The movie is directed by Nagaraj Somayaji.

The movie has an ensemble of cast including Rakesh Adiga of Big Boss fame, Sunil Rao, Poorna Chandra Mysore, Teju Belawadi, Shine Shetty, Hariharan, Prabhu Mundkoor, Rekha Koodligi, Nagendra Sha, Shravan.

The movie explores the joys and challenges of a happy middle-class existence against the backdrop of one of the city's most vibrant neighborhoods – Chamarajpet. Pradeepa, who handled the megaphone for Kannada movie Huchudugaru, is making his debut as a producer in Sandalwood with this film.

Nagaraj Somayaji told BM the shoot of the movie was held at different locations in Bengaluru for 55 days and the team is waiting for a right time to release the film at theaters. "It is my second movie. Prior to this I directed Puksatte Lifu. Maryade Prashne will relate to all types of audiences," said the director.

Tribute to love

Celebrated musician Sanjith Hegde is back with his independent song in Kannada, a soulful melody that encapsulates the essence of love. This latest track promises to evoke a sense of longing and nostalgia, making listeners yearn for their loved ones, whether near or far.

This romantic song features Sanjana Doss, with lyrics penned by Nagarjun Sharma, Sanjith Hegde and stunning visuals captured by Bijoy Shetty. Together, they bring to life a composition that invites listeners to reminisce about cherished memories.

Sanjith has already made waves with his previous tracks in Hindi, 'Baadal' and 'Gulaabo', both of which were well-received by audiences and marked his significant entry into the Bollywood music scene.

With "Nange Allava," Sanjith has crafted a tune that has the potential to become an anthem for those who love deeply and passionately. This song is a testament to his evolving artistry.

Sanjith shares, "Making this song changed my life. I am so nervous and excited to share this with you all. The song Nange Allava helped me express my rollercoaster of a love life. I'm so grateful to everyone who's been part of this journey and with this release I feel a lot lighter".

Nange Allava was released by Warner Music India and is available on all streaming platforms.

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I, Anand narayana Rao (old name) R/o 4/185 Aryan Adonis, 10th Main, 1st Cross, 5th Stage, BEML Layout, Rajarajeshwari Nagar Bangalore, Karnataka 560098 have removed surname Anand Narayana (new name) son of Narayana Rao

WE, Neman Sharif M M & Mosina Banu residing at SF-3, No.24,25,26, Pooja Mandir Apartment, 10th Cross, 1st Main road, N.G.E.F Layout, Nagarabhavi 2nd Stage, Bangalore-560072 have changed our minor son name from RAYHAAN SHARIF M.N to AHMED REHAN N & DOB is 02.09.2018 vide affidavit dated 31.05.2024 sworn before notary Devaraja E, Bangalore.

I, Shariff Shahtaj Begum W/o. Mohammed Gouse Shariff Residing at No. 59, GF, Janatha Colony, Hesaragatta Main Road, Chikkasandra, T Dasarahalli Post, Bangalore-560057 have changed my name to SHAHATAJ BEGUM vide affidavit dated 25-06-2024 Sworn before notary: V.Anjanappa, Bangalore

I, ANUSHA M, aged 30 years, W/o Mr.Sukesh Kumar A S, residing #A208, SLV Magnum, Manjunath layout, Kodichikkanahalli, B.G road, Bangalore-560076, I hereby declare that my name wrongly mentioned in Passport as ANUSHA. I want to change my name from ANUSHA to ANUSHA M in passport.

I, Mubeen Taj Jaffar Khan W/o Jaffar Khan R/o No 37 Central Street Neelasandra B'lore 560047 have changed my name to Mubeen Taj for all purposes.

I, Mohamed Khaleel Ahmed S S/o Sabjan Sab R/o No 19, Khaleel Manzil.Vinayaka Nagara, Near Khushi Bakery. R R Layout, Chikkabanavara Post, Bangalore-560090 Declare that Mohamed Khaleel Ahmed S and Muhammed Khaleel Ahamed both names belongs to same person

I, MOHAMED ISMAIL BAIG S/o Mohammed Ali Baig R/at No.E-325, Madeena Nagar, Bommanahalli, Bengaluru-560068 have changed my name to MOHAMMED ISMAIL BAIG vide affidavit dated: 22/6/2024 Before Notary Deepa.M Bangalore.

I, Sadiya Mariyam Ajmal Khan W/o Syed Abid Shah R/o No.19/B, 3rd cross, Umar bagh layout, Banashankari, JP nagar, B'luru 560078 have changed my name to Sadiya Mariyam Affidavit Dt.26/06/2024 notary Harisha G, B'luru

I, KURUVILLA ISAC, R/at No.93/619, Peenya Plantation, Opp. Bethel Telugu Church, Bengaluru-560015 have changed my name to KURUVILLA ISSAC, vide affidavit dated 18.06.2024 sworn before notary V. Anjanappa, B.lore.

I, Abdul Wahab R/o 106/2, Kogilu cross Lyt, Belahalli cross, Yelahanka, B'luru 560064 have changed my minor daughter name from Hoor Sharief to Hoor Sophia Sharief Affidavit Dt.26/06/2024 notary Harisha G, B'luru

I Tarun Kumar Suresh Kumar R/o Old.43, New No.375, 9th J main road, Vijayanagar, Bengaluru 560040 have changed my name to Tarun Jain Affidavit Dt.26/06/2024 notary Harisha G, B'luru

I, Jagadeesh Subramanyam R/o 597, Down bazaar road, Yelahanka, Bengaluru 560064 have changed my name to Jagadish Subramanyam Affidavit Dt.26/06/2024 notary Harisha G, B'luru

I, Avinash S Kukreja, S/o Srichand Tikamdas Kukreja R/o 10/1, Kukreja House, 2nd floor, Kumara Krupa Road, Bengaluru-560001 shall Be Known as Avinash Srichand Kukreja for all Purposes.

I Arpita Goswami W/o Titas Goswami R/o 4105,Prestige park view apt,hopeform, kadu-godi Rd, B'luru-560066 have changed my name to Arpita Pramanik for all purposes

I, Pratibha Anand Rao (old name) R/o 4/185 Aryan Adonis, 10th Main, 1st Cross, 5th Stage, BEML Layout, Rajarajeshwari Nagar Bangalore, Karnataka 560098 have removed my surname PRATIBHA ANAND W/o. Anand Narayana (new name)

I, NOUSHEEN, R/a #13,1st Cross, Chinnappa garden, Benson Town Po Bangalore-46. I, have changed my name to NOUSHEEN BEGUM Vide affidavit dated25/06/2024 sworn before Notary Prakasha C

I, DEEPTI SHUKLA, R/a No.310, A Block, SM Zinnia APTS, Varthur, Bangalore-87. I, have changed my name to DEEPTI TIWARI Vide affidavit dated 21/06/2024 Sworn before Notary Sivakumara M.N

WE, Neman Sharif M M & Mosina Banu residing at SF-3, No.24,25,26, Pooja Mandir Apartment, 10th Cross, 1st Main road, N.G.E.F Layout, Nagarabhavi 2nd Stage, Bangalore-560072 have changed our minor daughter name from MANHA FATHIMA M.N to AYATH FATHIMA N & DOB is 02.09.2018 vide affidavit dated 31.05.2024 sworn before notary Devaraja E, Bangalore.

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We have got to move it!

Nearly 50% adults in India insufficiently physically active in 2022: Lancet Study

Almost 50 per cent of adults in India engaged in insufficient levels of physical activity in 2022, according to a study published in The Lancet Global Health journal.

Far more women in India (57 per cent) were found to be insufficiently physically active, compared to men (42 per cent), in line with trends across the South Asian region, the study found.

The insufficient levels of physical activity in women in the region were, on average, 14 per cent higher than those in men, it said.

The South Asian region also ranked the second highest in terms of adults being insufficiently physically active after the high-income Asia Pacific region, an international team of researchers, including those from the World Health Organization (WHO), said.

Globally, the authors found that about a third of the adults (31.3 per cent) were insufficiently physically active -- defined as not performing at least 150 minutes of moderate-intensity physical activity per week or 75 minutes of vigorous-intensity physical activity per week.

This was up by five per cent from 26.4 percent of the adults worldwide insufficiently engaging in physical activity in 2010, they found, and if the 2010-2022 trends continued, the authors said that the global target of improving physical activity engagement by 15 per cent would not be met.

In India, a little over 22 per cent of the adults engaged in insufficient physical activity in the year 2000, while in 2010, close to 34 per cent of the adults were insufficiently physically active, the researchers found.

They projected that in 2030, 60 per cent of the adults could be insufficiently engaging in physical activity, should current trends continue.

Study projects that in 2030, 60% of the adults could be insufficiently engaging in physical activity, should current trends continue

For the study, the researchers analysed data of physical activity reported by adults (aged at least 18 years) in population-based surveys to estimate the number of adults performing insufficient physical activity for 197 countries and territories from 2000 to 2022.

The team also found that around the world, older adults, both men and women, aged 60 years and above, were increasingly engaging in insufficient physical activity.

Physical inactivity is known to heighten risk of developing non-communicable diseases, including diabetes and heart disease. Rising levels of physical activity, along with an increasingly sedentary lifestyle, are contributing to increase in cases of these diseases and burdening healthcare systems around the world, according to the WHO.

A 2023 Indian Council of Medical Research-India Diabetes (ICMR-INDIAB) study, published in The Lancet Diabetes and Endocrinology journal, estimated that 101 million people in India were diabetic in 2021, and about 315 million had hypertension the same year.

Further, 254 million were estimated to have obesity and 185 million estimated to have high levels of LDL or 'bad' cholesterol, according to the study. **PTI**

IN BRIEF

Surrogacy rules amended: Govt employees to get 6-month break

Female government employees opting for surrogacy for childbirth can now avail up to six months or 180 days of maternity leave, according to new amendments by the Centre to the 50-year-old rule.

While currently there is no provision for maternity leaves to women government employees, the new amendment in the Central Civil Services (Leave) Rules, 1972, will bring major relief to the "surrogate (the woman who carries the child for the commissioning mother), as well as the commissioning mother (the intended mother of the child born via surrogacy) with less than two surviving children"

The new rule also applies to male government employees who have less than two living children.

The "commissioning father" (the intended father of the child born via surrogacy) will also be able to get a paternity leave of 15 days," according to the notice dated June 18, issued by the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pension.

As per current regulations, "a female government servant and single male government servant" can take childcare leave for up to 730 days throughout their service to care for their two oldest surviving children. **— IANS**

ISRO's commercial arm, Australia ink $18 million pact

The Australian government on Wednesday entered into an $18 million memorandum of understanding (MoU) with NewSpace India Limited (NSIL), the commercial arm of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO).

Under the partnership, announced on the inaugural day of the India Space Congress 2024, Australian firm Space Machines will launch a satellite inspection and observation payload aboard ISRO's Small Satellite Launch Vehicle (SSLV) in 2026.

"It is terrific to see this historic launch agreement signed here today between Space Machines and NewSpace India Limited. Australia and India are important strategic and natural partners in the space sector; an inherently global industry," said Philip Green OAM, Australian High Commissioner to India.

The mission, named Space MAITRI (Mission for Australia-India's Technology, Research and Innovation), marks a significant milestone in the strategic partnership between Australia and India in the space domain. **— IANS**

GALLERIA

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User data access to Truecaller: CCI rejects plea against Google

The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has turned down a complaint against Google India, for allegedly granting exclusive access to Truecaller to share private contact information of users with everyone while prohibiting other apps from doing so.

"By doing this, Google is favouring Truecaller and distorting the market for caller ID and spam protection apps, thereby providing a monopoly space to Truecaller," Rachna Khaira had claimed in the complaint.

Rejecting the allegations in an order dated June 24, the antitrust regulator said Khaira's claims remained "unsubstantiated" even though she was given "sufficient opportunity" to offer credible evidence to back the claims.

Khaira wanted the CCI to compel Google to enforce its policy for all applications uniformly and ban Truecaller from making private contact information public.

Google says

On its part, Google told the regulator that the allegations were "incorrect, as the Google Play Store explicitly prohibits the unauthorised publishing or disclosure of users' non-public contacts".

"The informant (Khaira) provides no evidence that Truecaller's app distributed on the Play Store violates Google's Play Store policies," it argued.

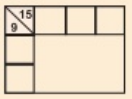
The Informant, Google said, "misrepresents and selectively quotes" Truecaller's privacy policies to claim the caller identification app collects contact information of users without their consent in violation of Google's Play Store policies. In fact, Truecaller's privacy policies require user authorisation for access to their contact information through the Google Play Store app, it stressed. Google denied having extended any privileged or unique Android API (application programming interface) access to Truecaller.

Regulator's view

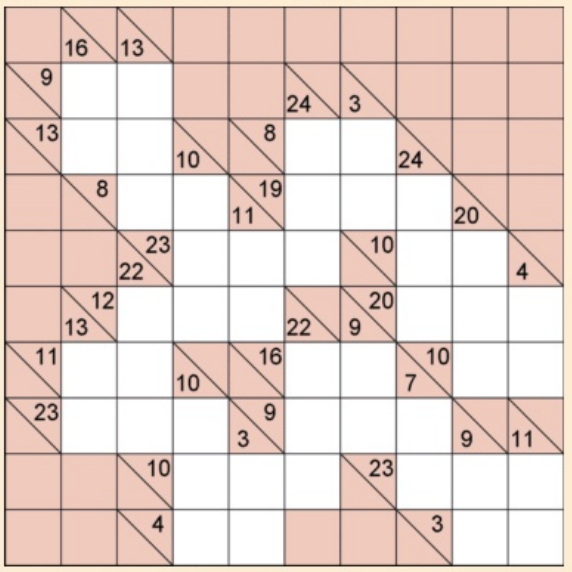
Taking into account the submissions, the regulator said users seem to have "voluntarily" provided the contact details data to Truecaller. "Therefore, the allegations of the informant that Truecaller is engaging in 'unauthorised publishing' or that Google has allowed any preferential access to Truecaller do not appear to be substantiated," it said in the order. **—ET Online**

Kakuro

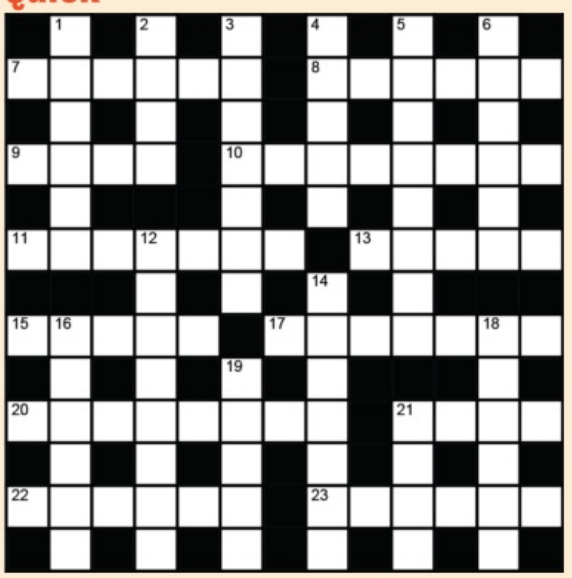
The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.



Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

7 Promptly; quickly (6)
8 Quite clever (6)
9 `V' for the Romans? (4)
10 Kernel case (8)
11 Betrayal (7)
13 European Country (5)
15 Ragouts (5)
17 A bombing attack (3,4)
20 Precious, expensive or costly (8)
21 Well-pleased (4)
22 Purloined (6)
23 Dylan ___ : famous poet? (6)

DOWN

1 Reach a point (6)
2 This one's __ __ : I'll pay the bill? (2,2)
3 Tired, eroded or corroded? (4,3)
4 Borders on (5)
5 City in Saurashtra (8)
6 It sounds cold but it is hot to taste? (6)
12 Legally (8)
14 Freedom (7)
16 Karnataka's popular idli variant (6)
18 __ __ __ or two : shortly? (2,1,3)
19 Black timber (5)
21 British jail (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: L EQUALS G

IO BUO ZC HOOR IAHVCK BDV TDVOUHZBDVADL CDNS AD ZWO NODLZW CG VBSH.

Linemaro

How happy I will be as long as I know I have you to share each day with me

Mindchow

You can't start the next chapter of your life if you keep re-reading the last one

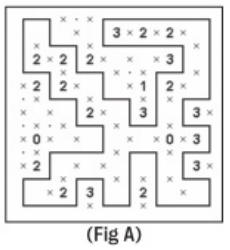
Joke of the day

My wife's jealousy is getting ridiculous. The other day she looked at my calendar and wanted to know who May was.

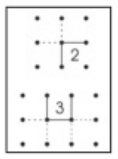
Loop

Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.



(Fig A)

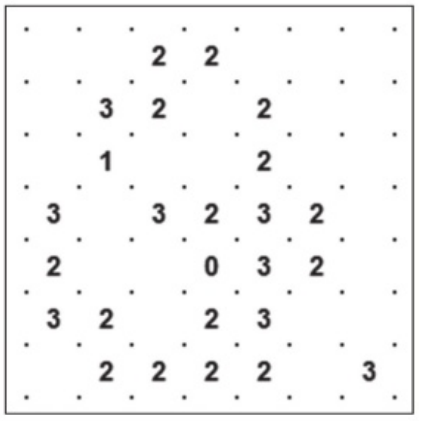


(Fig B) Not Allowed

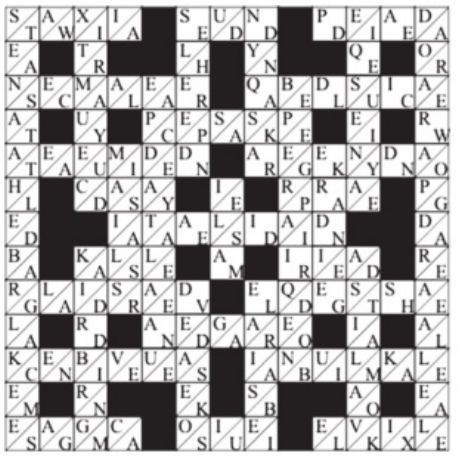
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



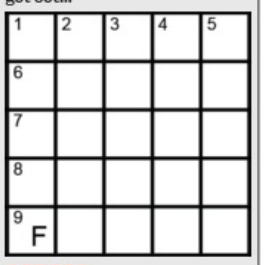
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

1 Bar SS; 6 Gel it;
7 True I; 8 Infer;
9 Feats

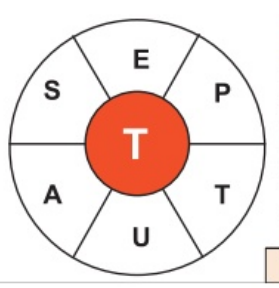
DOWN

1 L buff; 2 Irate;
3 Tange; 4 I Erse;
5 Sir ST

Mensapuzzle

In the box is a common 12-letter word used in everyday language. See how long it takes you to unscramble it

I	O	U
G	T	A
I	U	R
A	N	N



Bull's eye

How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

19 Average; 21 Good; 23 Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

8		1	6		2	4		5
3			7		5			9
	3			6			2	
	1		2		4		6	
	9			7			4	
4			9		1			3
9		5	3		7	1		2

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy = 5
2 3 5 5

Medium = 25
4 6 6 7

Hard = 28
4 6 7 6

Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

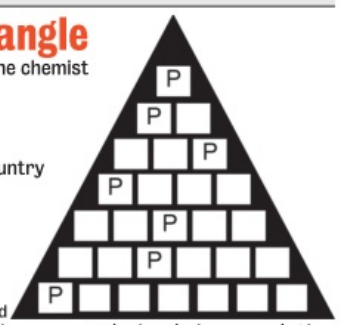
Differences: 1. Handkerchief is moved. 2. Arm is longer. 3. Bush is smaller. 4. Fence is added. 5. Hat is larger. 6. Line in sidewalk is missing.

Riddler

What phrase is represented below?
Measles Medical Research Teardrop Tablets =
Measles 30% cured Boredom Shot =
Measles 50% cured Ha-Ha Syrup =
Measles 100% cured

Alpha triangle

1 Phosphorus for the chemist
2 European river
3 Summit
4 Tagore or Keats
5 Storage site
6 Banish from a country
7 Foretell; omen



Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS

Popeye

ONLY VIPER VELMA CAN SAVE POPEYE .... YOU HAVE TO HELP ME FIND HER!
TELL ME, WIMPY! WHERE DOES I FIND VIPER VELMA
I CAN'T TELL YOU! I SUGGEST YOU GO ASK MISS OYL!
BLOW ME DOWN!? WHAT WOULD OLIVE KNOW ABOUT VELMA OF VENUS?

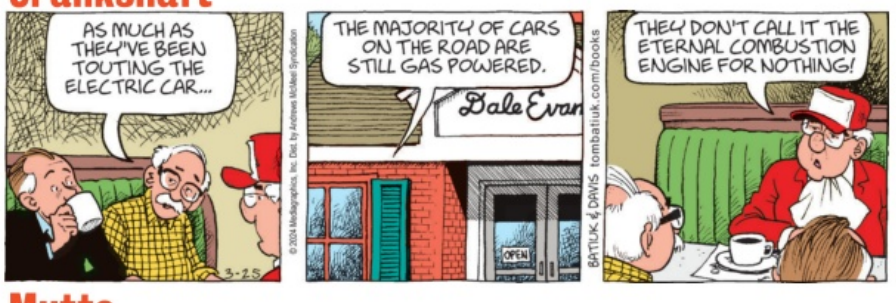
Bizarrotrip

Wayno & Piraro 3-25-24
It finally hit me that in real life, princes always turn back into frogs.
GRIMM REALIZATION
BIZARRO.COM

Diamond Lil

Hart of the city

Crankshaft


AS MUCH AS THEY'VE BEEN TOUTING THE ELECTRIC CAR...
THE MAJORITY OF CARS ON THE ROAD ARE STILL GAS POWERED.
Dale Evan
OPEN
THEY DON'T CALL IT THE ETERNAL COMBUSTION ENGINE FOR NOTHING!

Mutts

WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today, you may feel that your life has become challenging, so you may take some advice from your elders to survive in the given situation. You need to have patience. Kids' education also makes you upset; you may have a short trip in terms of their academics. Investors are advised to avoid speculation before making any investments.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
Today, you will be a victim of dissatisfaction; you may not get the result of your hard work, which may cause disappointment. You are advised to read documents carefully before signing a new contract. Investment in the assets may also be possible, so you are advised to follow your intuition before making investments in fixed assets.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
Today, you may be busy with social get-togethers and family occasions, which may increase your network. You may also plan for a short work-related trip. Disagreements between siblings will be resolved now. Your subordinates may cooperate with you to complete a difficult project. Your confidence may be high. You are advised to keep your patience while interacting with anyone.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
Today, you may be busy with family get-togethers; you may become polite with the people around you, which may increase your image among your relatives and friends. You will spend money on buying some artefacts and other things that will improve your social status. You may hear some good news from one of your close relatives.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Today, happiness may be around you; you may enjoy your day-to-day work. Your vital power may help you make difficult decisions, which will increase your profits in the near future. You may plan for a work-related short trip. Subordinates and colleagues may support you in completing your work on time. Students may find themselves more focused on their studies. You are advised to control your eating habits to avoid stomach issues.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Today, you may feel dull, and sleeplessness may affect your mental and physical health as well. You may also be upset due to the health issues of a family member. Your expenditure on worthless stuff may affect your savings. You may be a victim of a conspiracy, so you are advised to keep an eye on your opponents.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
Today, you may start your day with happiness. At work, you may make quick decisions, which may have benefits in the near future. You may expect some new source of income, which may boost your savings. With the help of your partner, you may invest some amount in the business, which may be profitable in the near future. You will have a better understanding of your spouse, which may result in harmony in domestic life.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Today, you may be busy at your office. Due to mental tiredness, you may not be able to give time to your family. Professionally, you may do better. With the help of the elder's blessings, job seekers may get a high position in the job, and managers may get promoted to top management. You may get rewards, which may increase your status.

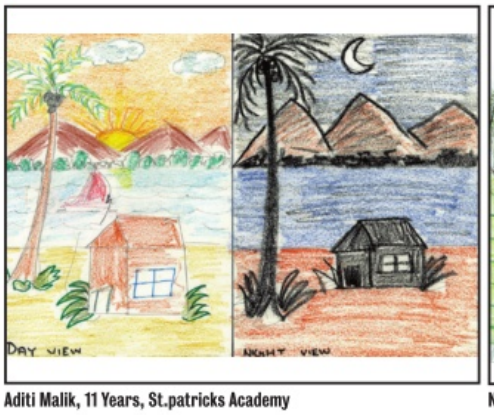
Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Today, you may be happy and have good patience, which may reflect in your way of working. You may complete your task in an efficient way. You may plan to visit some religious places. You may also make a donation to a religious place or to a charity. You may be able to control your opponents. Lovebirds may develop trust in their relationship.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Today, you may feel unhappy and dull, which affects your way of working. There may be some delay in the completion of your projects, which may affect your prestige in your professional and domestic lives. It is advised to avoid adventure tours or rush-hour driving. Lovebirds may break up. Job seekers may be disappointed in terms of a new job.

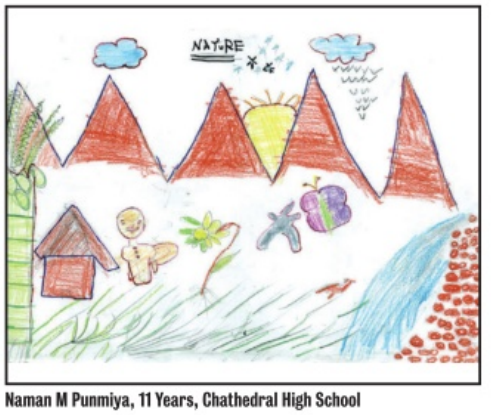
Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Today, you may feel positive vibrations around you. Things are under control now; you may plan to start a new business as a partnership. You may expect some long-distance travel as well. You will have faith in your spouse, which will bring harmony to your domestic life.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Today, you may perform your best in the office. You may have a good bond with the boss, and you may get some new responsibilities in terms of promotions. Chronic health issues may be cured now. You may get good incentives for your work as well. Disputes with the siblings may be resolved now. A job seeker may find a new job.

KIDZONE



Aditi Malik, 11 Years, St.patricks Academy



Naman M Punmiya, 11 Years, Chathedral High School

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011;
Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
$((6.25 \div 100) * 1600)^2$
$(0.0625 * 1600)^2 = 100^2$
= 10000

RIDDLER
Laughter is the best medicine

STRIKE OUT

S	A	G	A	S	U	E	E	V
E	N	K	S	O	E			
K	N	I	V	E	S	A	N	I
A	D	N	E	G	R	O	I	L
R	A	I	S	E	D	E	S	S
B	A	L	L	M	R	I	A	R
E	I	T	A	L	I	A	N	A
H	D	A	Y	E	P	R	E	P
T	E	M	E	D	A	G	E	N
T	Y	C	E	A	S	E	I	W
S	C	A	L	A	R	A	B	D
T	A	X	I	S	U	N	D	E

QUICK

A	O	W	A	M	C			
P	R	O	N	T	O	B	R	I
R	M	R	U	T	I			
F	I	V	E	N	U	T	S	H
S	E	L	L	O	U	T	S	P
S	T	E	W	S	A	I	R	R
		A	T	L	U			
V	A	L	U	A	B	L	E	G
H	F	E	B	N				
4	8	7	9	2	1	6	3	5
9	6	5	3	4	7	1	8	2
3	4	6	7	8	5	2	9	1

MENSA PUZZLE
The letters form the word "INAUGURATION"

BULL'S EYE
astute, east, past, paste, pate, peat, pest, putt, sate, seat, spat, spate, state, statue, step, suet, tape, taste, taupe, taut, test, upset, UPSTATE

SUDOKU

2	5	9	4	1	3	8	7	6
8	7	1	6	9	2	4	3	5
3	4	6	7	8	5	2	1	9
7	3	4	1	6	9	5	2	8
5	1	8	2	3	4	9	6	7
6	9	2	5	7	8	3	4	1
4	8	7	9	2	1	6	5	3
9	6	5	3	4	7	1	8	2
1	2	3	8	5	6	9	7	4

ALPHA TRIANGLE
Easy
2 + 3 + 5 − 5 = 5
Medium
6 x 6 − 4 − 7 = 25
Hard
4 + 6 − 6 x 7 = 28

GO FIGURE
P, Po, Top, Poet, Depot, Deport, Portend.

LOOP

KAKURO

FAST FIVE

B	R	A	S	S
L	E	G	I	T
U	T	E	R	I
F	I	N	E	R
F	A	T	E	S

QUOTE UNCODE
We are to seek wisdom and understanding only in the length of days.

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MARUTI SUZUKI

NEXA

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Head Up Display

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